



BOUND FOR INDIA . . . David Macaray (at right), son of Press-Herald columnist Larry Macaray, studies a map of India with one of his language teachers, Syed Husain, David, who is now in the State of Punjab in India, is a member of the Peace Corps.

... Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

How does one report the activities of his son when those activities have a personal and emotional impact? A few weeks ago this column was devoted to the apparently impossible task of sending a leather jacket and a pair of boots to our son, David, who was taking his Peace Corps training deep in the heart of Texas. What should now be related is the sequel to that story. The large package was finally returned to me from Milwaukee and I had better luck sending it to Zapata, Texas — it arrived!

The rigors and frustrations that accompany Peace Corps training certainly cannot be properly described in a second hand fashion. Now that our son has successfully passed the training program

— flown home for four very short days—and is now situated in Northwest India, there is time to think about what has happened in the past three months.

The decision, in the beginning, to submit an application for Peace Corps training—the long wait for approval or disapproval—the last minute information concerning where to go to train—the obviously difficult and sometimes agonizing program itself—and then the most difficult part of all, selection—are all parts of an unselfish course of action zealously pursued by thousands of young people today.

To say that the 13-week training program that David had at the University of Wis-

consin and the wilds of Southern Texas was thorough is an understatement. Sixty-hour weeks provided time to learn Hindi, the language that is spoken in the State of Punjab. Of course, learning all about tubewells (irrigation wells) was also an important phase of the program. The practical work in the fields of Texas gave them an opportunity to try out their knowledge of sinking water wells, as well as maintaining them.

The 14 Peace Corps volunteers who left this past week from New York on the tubewell assignment to Punjab go at a very critical period. Food is badly needed. There is never enough water. The Sikhs are arguing with the Hindus over the recent partition of the State and the Hindus are still fighting the government over the holy cows that roam the streets.

However, the goals of the Peace Corps are broad enough to allow volunteers to work under any given situation—they are: To aid social, cul-

tural and economic development through the provision of trained manpower to nations which request such help. To increase knowledge of the United States in other countries. Finally, to increase American understanding of other peoples.

ONE OF THE joys of a program that is involved with a foreign country is the opportunity of meeting people from other lands. This Christmas season was especially exciting for us because of our son's four days at home before the long journey to Punjab. What a pleasant surprise to learn that he was bringing home one of his Indian teachers, Syed Husain, to spend the four days with us.

It was truly a rare experience to meet such a person as Syed—here or anywhere else in the world. When I first learned of his coming, I asked David if Syed spoke any English, and his reply was, "He speaks better English than we do." And so it was

quite true that Syed did speak good English, having obtained an A.B. in India before coming to America. He also obtained another A.B. degree here in America, and when he is not busy teaching languages in the Peace Corps, he is working toward his Masters Degree in Pharmacy.

Christmas Day two Indian families, friends of Syed, visited with us and it was hard to believe that all of a sudden—here is a roomful of young Indian people—some in native dress—conversing with an American boy in Hindi as though they had known him for years. Their English also was excellent, as I could not speak or understand Hindi.

Armed Forces

Marine Cpl. Tommy B. Chisam, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Chisam of 3910 W. 170th, is in the Khe Sanh area of Viet Nam as a member of H&S Company, First Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division.

Members of his company participate in both day and night patrols, ambushes and extended search and destroy operations against the enemy.

Marine Pfc. Ronald N. Daggett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman E. Daggett of 3922 Emerald St., has completed the Aviation Structural Mechanics School in Structures at the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Memphis, Tenn. The curriculum includes electricity, aviation supply, theory of flight.

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